

Birdwell 04/02/24 Judges Report

Judge Stephen Helmore

I came up from Sheffield having stayed for a long weekend with in laws. James Buchan had made the journey down from Aberdeen and Andrew Lee had come up from Bath but unfortunately both Kerry and Sian [covid] couldn't attend due to illness. This left us a bit short on numbers but not quality.

The Young Standards became a little competition between Andrew and James's chins. With 4 young females split 2 mediums from Andrew and 2 darks from James. The Dark 1 st from James with a dense plushy fur, clear colour, good veiling coverage and good size but slightly narrow across shoulders became our Best Young Female, Best Young Standard and Reserve Best Standard. The Medium 1 st from Andrew also had a good strong fur type she was clear but not bright with good size and conformation became Reserve young female and Reserve young Standard. I gave a 2 nd ribbon to the Novice medium entry from Joanne Rycroft with reasonably strong fur with clear colour and good conformation an 'OK' chin to breed with.

The 2 young males both received generous 1 st ribbons and didn't challenge the females. This time the Medium Dark of Andrews was the better of the 2 with reasonably strong fur, clear colour slightly narrow conformation. James's Extra dark had good veiling coverage a plushy but not silky fur type he was out of condition on the day.

The 8 adult females split into 4 mediums ,3 medium darks and 1 dark that gave us 3 1 st ribbon winners. Andrew had all 4 medium entries 1st was a reasonable chin but didn't compete with the other 2 1st's. The medium dark class was closely run with Andrew's chin receiving 1 st, that had the stronger denser plushy fur and better condition, became our Best Adult Female and Reserve Adult Standard to Andy Marshall's chin that had the brighter colour and larger and blockier but down on finish and condition. Andy's 1 st dark female was also a good chin with good veiling but priming badly over the hips with condition holding her back in Reserve Adult Female.

2 novice Medium Dark Adult males from Joanne received 2 nd and 3 rd ribbons both had a dull colour that I put down to cage stain. 2 nd was the better chin with reasonable size and conformation with a longer reasonably strong fur to the 3rd's plushy shorter fur type.

2 Dark chins from Andrew had 1 st and 2 nd ribbons. The 1 st at just over 7 months had a sharp bright colour, really well finished with a strong plushy fur type and 'shone ' on the day. He became our Best Adult male, Best adult Standard, Best Standard and ultimately Best in Show.

2 Extra Darks from Andy, both good chins 1 st had a strong silky fur with reasonable size and conformation became Reserve adult male, 2 nd had a brighter dark intense colour but at 14 months was too small.

The 5 main show young mutations were disappointing with the highest ribbon a 2 nd going to a medium ebony from Andrew that was very light in colour with a greyish belly, reasonable size, clear colour and plushy fur but slightly narrow across the shoulders. 2 Novice chins which I later learnt were were siblings on the cusp of 4 months, a pink white and a Wilson White. Apologise to young lady that I didn't take down your Christian name bred by Miss Haliday . Both received 2 nd ribbons for very nice chins other than the Pink white colour was a bit 'lemony' and the Wilson White was a bit 'creamy'.

The biggest group of the day were the Adult Mutations with 12 main show entries and 6 Novice entries.

3 Beige chins had a 1 st and 2 nd for James both large blocky chins. 1st was darker with strong tight fur in the middle of the back but priming over the hips. 2 nd had a lighter attractive colour but a much weaker fur and groomed giving it a 'wavy' look. Novice 2 nd ribbon award to Joanne for an older beige that had oxidised . A good chin, large and blocky with a plushy fur type.

2 Wilson Whites 1 st from Andrew was a good chin , large and blocky with a dense plushy fur with a clear greyish colour became our Reserve adult Mutation.

3 Pink whites , 1 st from Andrew was a cracker, good clear colour reasonable size but good conformation and a lovely dense strong plushy fur type became our Best Mutation and Reserve Show Champion . Andrew had a 1 st ribbon for a sullivan Violet with good size and conformation reasonable fur strength and colour . A 2 nd for an ultra violet that was smaller and open fur clear colour. James had a 2 nd for a black velvet a reasonable chin with a fairly intense black with strongish fur but quite tinged.

Joanne brought the other 5 adult Mutations . Her Ultra violet with reasonable size and fur type and strength was definitely down on colour not sure if Oxidised in sunlight or stain. A 3 rd for a Blue Diamond that was small and narrow, colour was clear but not bright and very soft fur down the flanks. Also a 3 rd for a Black Velvet a smaller chin with only a narrow band of mutant fur. Fur type and strength was reasonably good. Needs a blocky dark standard to breed improvement. A 2 nd for a chin entered as an ebony ,was a very good chin with a white belly and not showing too much of an Ebony trait.

Congratulations to Andrew for bringing both Best Standard and Best mutation being our Show Champion and Reserve Champion. Thank you to North Region for hosting an enjoyable show and Jayne and Heather Arnstein for preparing lunch.

Stephen Helmore